

**ALPLM Advisory Board Meeting
JRTC, 15th Floor, Suite 200 – Chicago, IL
Thursday, December 11th – 10:30am**

I. CALL TO ORDER

Chairman Steve Beckett called the meeting to order at 10:30am.

II. ROLL CALL

Present: Steve Beckett, Leigh Bienen, Charles Branham, Paula Kaufman, Dick Meister, Patrick Reardon, Craig Sautter, David Spadafora

Phoned-in: Ranjan Karri, Donna Carroll

Absent: Sean Vinck

Staff present: Eileen Mackevich – ALPLM Executive Director; Kathryn Harris – ALPLM Library Services Director

Invited Guests: Sunny Fischer, Chairman – IHPA Board of Trustees

Phoned-in: Chris Wills – IHPA Communications Director, Garth Madison – IHPA Chief Legal Counsel

III. REVIEW/APPROVAL OF MINUTES

The October 10, 2014 meeting minutes were unanimously approved.

IV. REPORTS

Advisory Board Chairman's Report: Steve Beckett

Chair Beckett explained his reason for scheduling and subsequently cancelling the Advisory Board's special meeting in November. He wanted the board to have input regarding the pending legislation, and potentially vote on his and Ranjan Karri's resolutions. During the State Government Administration Committee Hearing on November 19th, after the Study Panel and IHPA presented their testimonies, Beckett felt that the special meeting should be cancelled. He relayed those thoughts to Chairman Franks when asked about the potential action items, explaining he felt the meeting would serve no purpose at this time.

Beckett went on to note the Advisory Board had been criticized for lack of adoption of vision and mission statements, and a collections management policy. He explained he believes the board has been slow to recommend such policies in order to do due diligence. He noted he would like to address these items at this meeting.

Beckett addressed the ongoing race issues that have plagued the nation recently, citing the instances in Ferguson and New York particularly. He said he believes that the ALPLM has a responsibility to address these issues. Board members concurred, with Craig Sautter suggesting that the ALPLM host an event(s) that would relate to current race issues. Paula Kaufman suggested pulling in area scholars in an effort to form appropriate relationships. Charles Branham suggested focusing on the broader issues that occurred during Lincoln's time such as race, and violence in regards to women. Leigh Bienen concurred, stating it would be an ideal opportunity to remind the public of the ALPLM's relevance. Kathryn Harris suggested holding a public forum at the ALPLM in an effort to pull in the people of Springfield and surrounding areas.

ALPLM Staff Report: Eileen Mackevich, Executive Director

Mackevich touched on and provided a list of the Museum's 10th Anniversary activities that are planned throughout 2015.

The Stevenson collection and exhibit that Alan Teller has been working on with Museum and Library staff will be a rotating exhibit situated in the former cloak room of the Library and will set the tone for a library that holds both the Lincoln collection and the history of the State of Illinois. Mackevich explained that there is a hold-up as the Library's own Stevenson collections are not fully inventoried or catalogued. She stated she expects to enlist the Foundation in an effort to raise approximately \$200,000 or less for all aspects of the project and collections.

Mackevich informed the board that the exhibit *Undying Words* opened in late November, in collaboration with the Chicago History Museum. It is the largest and most expensive exhibit the Museum has produced and will remain open for some time with modest changes to protect artifacts.

Mackevich told the board that there will be new exhibits in the Treasures Gallery come spring 2015 that will feature 19th century mourning ephemera and artifacts from the ALPL collection with an emphasis upon the Lincoln Springfield funeral.

The Museum will also produce a new exhibit in July 2015, in collaboration with the Shapell Manuscripts Foundation, entitled *To See Jerusalem Before I Die* that will focus on the close relationship between Lincoln and the Jews. The Shapell collection is reputed to be the best privately held Lincoln collection.

In addition to the new exhibits already planned for 2015, Mackevich related the information that an exhibits committee has been formed to review past and planned exhibits in an effort to draw in pro bono consultants and to expand possible collaborations. The goal is a five year plan that encompasses the Museum and Library.

Mackevich noted the organization of a study panel on Mrs. Lincoln's Attic. This has been formed by Mackevich and the Michelle Poe; they have appointed twenty-year History Fair

employee Pete Harbison to conduct the study. The Study will examine comparable history museums as well as children's museums in terms of staffing hours, patrons' evaluations, and services. Pro bono consultants in early childhood education will be solicited. Children and parents will also be consulted

Mackevich spoke about the five retirements this fiscal year that have put the Library in jeopardy. She informed the board that two of the four Library positions previously cited have been posted, but she does not expect these positions to be filled immediately. Hard decision will have to be made about the amount of services the Library can provide to patrons.

Mackevich relayed that she will work with Joan Walters to organize a staff committee to plot some elements of a strategic plan, such as an exhibits plan, but will await the resolution of governance issues.

Library Services Report: Kathryn Harris, Director

Harris focused on the 125th anniversary celebration of the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library, and highlighted a particular series of public events entitled "Stories from the stacks" which has thus far been a success. Harris also relayed the difficulties the Library has been and will continue to face due to the diminished staff and five upcoming retirements.

Harris noted her own retirement (March 2015), warning the board that it is highly unlikely she will be replaced before she leaves due to the current hiring freeze implemented by the Governor. She informed the board that a position for Librarian II was posted to the CMS website, and she is hopeful it will be filled after the January 12th inauguration date.

David Spadafora requested a year-to-year comparison of the Library's attendance numbers; Harris will provide shortly.

V. State Government Administration Committee Hearing: Update

The State Government Administration Committee will potentially hold another hearing, but no date has been set at this time.

Charles Branham and Paula Kaufman informed the board that the Study Panel report will be complete and submitted to the State Government Administration Committee by the end of December. An interim report will be made available.

VI. IHPA Board of Trustees Meeting Update

Fischer spoke about the last IHPA Board of Trustees meeting, in which it addressed the concern about diminished staff at ALPLM as well as at other IHPA sites and divisions.

Fischer informed the board that she was told that the State Historian position was now out of the State Historian Search Committee's hands; Beckett said he was told by Dawn DeFraties (IHPA HR Director) that the State Historian position was still the search committee's responsibility. Fischer informed the board that she relayed to the IHPA Board of Trustees that she, Chair Beckett, and Chair Whalen had previously met on November 6th and were planning to meet after this Advisory Board meeting; Beckett concurred and relayed to the board that he and Sunny meet regularly.

Garth Madison (IHPA Legal Counsel) informed the board that the Civil Service Commission had conducted a report of about forty state positions, the State Historian position included, in order to determine if the position should be Rutan-covered. At this point, the Civil Service Commission had not changed the position from an exempt position, but that they would revisit at a later date. Madison explained that if the position is changed to Rutan-covered, only Rutan-trained employees will be part of the interview process.

VII. Study Panel Update: Charles Branham and Paula Kaufman

Branham and Kaufman informed the board that an email was sent to the Study Panel, as well as to the three boards, from Bernie Reilly and Donna Sack that said the following:

“We are writing to report significant progress by the independent study panel that is evaluating various governance options for the Abraham Lincoln Presidential Library and Museum (ALPLM). The Study Panel met last week by conference call and reviewed a background and discussion document written by Dr. Brent Glass, consultant to the Panel. In response to their request to be kept up to date on the work of the study panel, we are sharing a copy of this memorandum with Chairman Jack Franks and Republican Spokesperson Robert Pritchard, of the State Government Administration Committee, and Illinois Senate President John Cullerton.

After a thorough and thoughtful discussion, the ALPLM Study Panel reached consensus on several fundamental points:

- The current governance of the ALPLM, as currently structured within the Illinois Historic Preservation Agency (IHPA), has proved unworkable and cannot continue in its present form;
- On the other hand, the proposed legislation, SB 218, as amended, would weaken both ALPLM and IHPA and would create further political and bureaucratic micromanagement;
- Of all the options under consideration, the preferred option is a reorganized IHPA with an expanded board of trustees (including Lincoln experts and members of the General Assembly) and qualified senior management with experience and expertise in leading cultural organizations. This will strengthen the entirety of Illinois history and heritage;
- Further, in the future, the State should consider the creation of a public-private partnership in which the State of Illinois engages with a non-profit organization to manage the operations of the ALPLM (and possibly, the operations of IHPA). This

option must provide for continued state ownership of real property and collections, as well as continued state support, quite possibly at a lower level than the current appropriation.

Other options such as affiliation with the National Archives or the University of Illinois are being researched, but, are considered unlikely, and are not likely to generate additional financial support.

The panel also agreed to move forward the deadline for the completion of the ALPLM Study Panel Report from January 15, 2015 to December 31, 2014. We are looking forward to sharing the report in its entirety, later this month. We appreciate the opportunity to participate in this important process, to address the best way to preserve and present Abraham Lincoln's legacy. We also recognize that this is directly connected to preserving the rich historical heritage of Illinois and we are confident that we are on a pathway to ensure this outcome.

Thank you for your commitment to Illinois history."

VIII. Resolutions Regarding ALPLM Governance (Action Item):

a. Ranjan Karri's Resolutions for Consideration

Karri stated he believes the statutes for the ALPLM and the ALPLM Executive Director to have some autonomy. He cited the fact that the legislature allocates the budget separately for ALPLM, and the fact that there is an executive appointment for the Director of the ALPLM as evidence of this fact. Within his resolution, the ALPLM Executive Director would have independence and would not be supervised by the IHPA Director. If the IHPA Board of Trustees does not recognize said resolution, the second part of the resolution would be triggered and the board would present their advice for a separation from the IHPA and move for the ALPLM to be a separate state agency.

Paula Kaufman stated she believes the timing is bad for any passage of resolutions as the Study Panel has nearly completed its work; Sunny Fischer stated she felt the Legislature was opposed to any passing of resolutions; Steve Beckett raised the question of relevance, suggesting passing this resolution would not accomplish much. He suggested the resolution might be deferred for a later meeting; Garth Madison informed the board that while they can pass this resolution, the IHPA does not have to legally recognize it.

David Spadafora moved for a motion to defer the resolution, seconded by Paula Kaufman. The motion failed.

Ranjan Karri made a motion for the passage of the resolution, seconded by Patrick Reardon. The motion passed. The ALPLM Advisory Board adopted Ranjan Karri's resolution.

Karri moved the resolution, Patrick Reardon seconded. Autonomy for ALPLM Executive Director was passed

b. Supporting Material: Joan Walters' Report

Mackevich noted that Walters will work with representation from the three boards as well as members of ALPLM and IHPA senior staff after the New Year to take steps toward strategic planning.

IX. Discussion: Next Steps

Leigh Bienen informed the board that she intends to tender her resignation at the end of the year; Beckett and Fischer concurred that they may do so as well.

Discussion followed on the statutes of the ALPLM Advisory Board members given the election of a new governor. The chairs of the two boards are appointed by the governor. Should they therefore tender their resignations? Does this also apply to all board members? The discussion was inconclusive. But the sense of the meeting was that board members position differ from the position of the chairs who are appointed by the governor.

Chairman Beckett called for a straw poll to be taken regarding the core documents and it passed unanimously. Official action will be taken at the next scheduled board meeting.

X. Public Comment

Garth Madison asked for the Advisory Board members to complete their ethics training packets, as well as their open meetings act training, and return all signed certificates to him.

XI. Adjournment

There being no further business, the Board meeting adjourned at 12:22pm.